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IN THE CLAIMS

- 1-7 (canceled)
8. (previously presented) A method comprising subjecting a TiO₂ residue from a sulfate process to heat treatment and, without being mixed further with other substances, performing a metallurgical process or preparing a refractory material with the heat treated TiO₂ residue.
 9. (previously presented) The method according to claim 8, wherein the TiO₂ residues are subjected to heat treatment at from 100 to 1300°C.
 10. (previously presented) The method according to claim 8, wherein the TiO₂ residues are in powder form or in the form of molded bodies.
 11. (previously presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein the TiO₂ residues are in powder form or in the form of molded bodies.
 12. (currently amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the TiO₂ residue comprises from 35 to 70 wt. % TiO₂; from 5 to 40 wt. % SiO₂; from 2 to 15 wt. % of an iron compound compounds; from 1 to 15 wt. % MgO; and from 0.5 to 15 wt. % CaO.
 13. (previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein TiO₂ residue comprises calculated as oxides from 20 to 80 wt. % TiO₂; from 2 to 30 wt. % SiO₂; from 0 to 15 wt. % Al₂O₃; from 0 to 1.5 wt. % Fe₂O₃; from 1 to 15 wt. % MgO; from 0 to 15 wt. % CaO.
 14. (previously presented) The method according to claim 8, wherein the dried TiO₂ residues are injected into a metallurgical furnace.
 15. (previously presented) The method according to claim 8, wherein the dried TiO₂ residues are used in a tap hole mass.
 16. (previously presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the TiO₂ residue comprises from 35 to 70 wt. % TiO₂; from 5 to 40 wt. % SiO₂; from 2 to 15 wt. % of iron compounds; from 1 to 15 wt. % MgO; and from 0.5 to 15 wt. % CaO.
 17. (previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the TiO₂ residue comprises from 35 to 70 wt. % TiO₂; from 5 to 40 wt. % SiO₂; from 2 to 15 wt. % of iron compounds; from 1 to 15 wt. % MgO; and from 0.5 to 15 wt. % CaO.

18. (previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the TiO₂ residue comprises from 35 to 70 wt. % TiO₂; from 5 to 40 wt.% SiO₂; from 2 to 15 wt.% of iron compounds; from 1 to 15 wt.% MgO; and from 0.5 to 15 wt.% CaO.
19. (previously presented) The method of claim 9, wherein TiO₂ residue comprises, calculated as oxides, from 20 to 80 wt.% TiO₂; from 2 to 30 wt.% SiO₂; from 0 to 15 wt.% Al₂O₃; from 0 to 15 wt. % Fe₂O₃; from 1 to 15 wt.% MgO; from 0 to 15 wt.% CaO.
20. (previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein TiO₂ residue comprises, calculated as oxides, from 20 to 80 wt.% TiO₂; from 2 to 30 wt.% SiO₂; from 0 to 15 wt.% Al₂O₃; from 0 to 15 wt. % Fe₂O₃; from 1 to 15 wt.% MgO; from 0 to 15 wt.% CaO.
21. (previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein TiO₂ residue comprises, calculated as oxides, from 20 to 80 wt.% TiO₂; from 2 to 30 wt.% SiO₂; from 0 to 15 wt.% Al₂O₃; from 0 to 15 wt. % Fe₂O₃; from 1 to 15 wt.% MgO; from 0 to 15 wt.% CaO.
22. (canceled)
23. (previously presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein the dried TiO₂ residues are injected into a metallurgical furnace.
24. (previously presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein the dried TiO₂ residues are injected into a metallurgical furnace.
25. (previously presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein the dried TiO₂ residues are injected into a metallurgical furnace.
26. (previously presented) The method according to claim 12, wherein the dried TiO₂ residues are injected into a metallurgical furnace.
27. (previously presented) The method according to claim 13, wherein the dried TiO₂ residues are injected into a metallurgical furnace.
28. (canceled)
29. (canceled)
30. (previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein a metallurgical process is performed.
31. (previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein a refractory material is prepared.